VOL. 4. NO. 5



MAY, 1946



FREDDIE SLACK looks pretty happy sitting at the Steinway and he has a right to the pleased expression. The boogie-woogie expert has just released two more Capitol platter sides co-starring his keyboard with Ella Mae Morse's unbeatable vocals. The duo of blues-specialists who made "Cow Cow Boogie" a household phrase are out to make more musical history with two new tunes-for further details of which see pic caption opposite side of this - Mihn Photo.

lune Will Find Krupa Back Here

Gene Krupa, who left town with his ork latter part of last month, will return to the west coast again in June for a short stay. The drummer will shoot scenes at that time for a new film, as yet untitled, on the

broke it up both at the Palladium (his original booking) and later at the Meadowbrook. Drummer - man's band also waxed a flock of transcriptions for the new Capitol wax library while Hollywooding-it.

Butterfield Will Record For Capitol

Capitol Records has signed trumpet-ace Billy Butterfield to an exclusive recording contract. The star trumpet-man is currently engaged in building a band back in NYC where he will cut his first sides under the new recording deal with

Contrary to earlier reports which had Butterfield preparing a library for a "studio" band, that is, a band of handpicked irregular musicians meeting for occasional wax dates and air shows, the musician wants it made clear that his next crew will be a regular traveling outfit. Plans for it are not completely set yet (girl and boy singers, for example, haven't been chosen) but Billy expects to be on the move with his new crew shortly.

Duke Ellington Set For Capitol **Transcriptions**

Another top-ranking name band star has been added to the growing list of Capitol Transcription artists with the signing in NYC recently of Duke Ellington and his band. The Duke and his men cut their first Capitol transcription date in NYC, though, of course, the formal first delivery of the wax library is not scheduled to take place until July of this year.

Duke, incidentally, will probably visit During his recent stay here, Krupa the west coast sometime later this year. There is a plan underway for him to appear at a Hollywood Bowl concert, possibly in conjunction with Woody Herman's band. And there are rumors, too, of the Duke setting up a new flicker deal.



ELLA MAE MORSE was caught singing the blues at her latest Capitol disc date, results of which are ready for you on record shop counters right now. With b.w. pianist Freddie Slack, Miss Morse swung through two new sides ("The House of Blue Lights" and "Hey, Mr. Postman") that look powerful enough to dim any of her earlier song successes. The patter on the "House," by the way, is done by Don Rave. who also wrote the tune's lyric.

- Mihn Photo.

Bobby Sherwood Opens Avodon

Capitol's Bobby Sherwood returns to town May 8 to open a new ballroom, the Avodon, in Los Angeles. Spot debuts with two bands, Bobby's, and that of Jan Garber and intends to continue the double booking

Sherwood, who has a new disc out for Capitol, recently concluded a national tour. While here on the coast, he'll cut more platters to follow up his sensational "Cottontail" and is also working out a flicker deal.

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> **Edited by Frank Stacy** Associate Editor, Eve Stanley

fan fare

Some Orchids

Shinagawa, Japan Orchids to you and your super magazine which gives us overseas H'wood and Los Angeles fans the latest dope on our favorite bands and vocalists and where they're playing. The western fans really appreciate the write-up you have each month about the different cowboy

Pvt. Harold Ferfer

A Fan From Britain

St. Albans, England I wish to say how much I enjoy your publication which I received from a pal in the States recently. As Secretary of the St. Albans Rhythm Club (which has over 300 members), I welcome such a mag for its help in many ways in giving members up-to-date information on the music world.

Peter C. Clay

Complete Disc File

La Crosse, Wisconsin The one thing I particularly like about "The Capitol" is the way it prints all the news items of all celebrities in the music world, and does not confine its tidbits to its own artists.

I own every single Capitol record that you have put out and hope to own every one from now on. There's only one thing holding me back and that is the fact that when I go down to the record shop all "The Capitol" magazines have been grabbed by other enthusiastic fans of Capitol records.

Digs Our Democracy

Fort Lewis, Washington lust got acquainted with your magazine a couple of months ago and I really think it's tops. One reason I like it so well is because it's so democratic, which is so typical of the music world.

Capitol records are really tops on my list as well. . . . Why wouldn't they be with such great artists as lo Stafford. the King Cole Trio, Martha Tilton, Peggy Lee and others.

Pfc. Johnny A. Franci

Frank Stacy's

sunset and vine

FURTHER details of the most interesting story this issue came in at the last moment, as they so often do. Plans are definitely underway for a film biography of the late Major Glenn Miller. Producer Harry Romm is behind the flicker; he'll release it independently through United Artists. The first thought was to call the movie "Life of Glenn Miller" but at the moment, the title has been changed to "In the Mood." Dick Powell has already been approved by Mrs. Helen Miller as a logical choice to play the role of her husband and it only remains for Powell to okay the final script before he is inked for the lead. Acting as technical advisors for the movie will be Mrs. Miller and Don W. Haynes, close friend and associate of the late bandleader. Both have the power (included in their contract) to nix out any scenes in the script which they deem inaccurate.

Dick English Writing Script

RICHARD ENGLISH, whom you may remember as the fellow who vear, wrote those swing band stories in Collier's a few years back, has been handed the rather tough assignment of capturing the life of a Heywood Follows name bandleader for a movie script. (It's English, too, who is penning "The Fabulous Dorseys" flicker.) According to reports, special emphasis will be Nat at Trocadero placed on authenticity of detail in recounting the saga of a young trombonist who invaded the big time and became THE bandleader of our day. Starred with Powell will be the Tex Beneke band, recently organized and practically a carbon copy of Miller's ork, plus Marion Hutton, the Modernaires, possibly Bob Eberly. Mrs. Miller may be played by Theresa Wright: the former having okayed that actress for her role. It should be an interesting venture and will, at least, serve to bring the new Beneke band west where It'll be Heywood's second trip west: its coast fans can hear it for the first time. Tex plans to open at the Palladium September 3 for five weeks and will follow with a week at the L.A. Orpheum and theater dates in San Francisco and Seattle.

Jam Going Over in San Fran

A NEW series of jam sessions on Sunday afternoons at the California Theater Club are taking San Francisco by storm. Curiously, according to reports I get, these jazz dates are the first at which racial mixing has been allowed in the city. Shows attract extra-large crowds and recently such stars as Erroll Garner, Boyd Raeburn and Clyde Hurley flew up for the fun.... Charlie "Yardbird" Parker, modern master of the modern alto-sax, is working at the Finale Club in L.A. The Bird was sick for a while but is much better now. Incidentally, his ex-boss, trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, is back east building another big band.... That arch-enemy of re-bop music, Benny Goodman, steps over into the long-hair corner come June 3 when he plays with Howard Barlow's ork on NBC. And is it really true what I hear? — that BG finds even those lovely Eddie Sauter arrangements too much trouble to spend time on?... Songwriter Harry Ravel is publishing a magazine called "At Ease" which is given away to disabled servicemen. It's a fine little book, a heck of a lot better, in fact, than most of the mags you pay money for at newsstands. Ravel donates plenty of time and money to the rag.... Boyd Raeburn is back from that one-nighter jaunt to the wilds of Texas. Jean Louise, gal who sang on the tour, is now working at the "It" Cafe at the Plaza Hotel here. Raeburn recently auditioned for a

Vocal Addition to Les Brown Band

I ES BROWN, whose band has been playing at the Terrace Room back in New Jersey, has added a new singer, Jack Haskell, to his organization. Butch Stone and Doris Day remain, of course. Incidentally, Doris is singing great music these days and getting wonderful support from the Brown ork which is also at the height of its career. There are still reports, though, that Doris will cut out from the band soon for a movie career. . . . George Handy's girl, Flo Morse (she's Ella Mae's sister) has written a wonderful hunk of big band jazz called "Keef," Handy scored it and the Boyd Raeburn band plays it. It's wild. . . . lim Lyons, clever young producer who put on those fine "lubilee" shows for Armed Forces Radio Service, is out of uniform, working on some hip jazz radio shows.

Special Awards To Capitol Stars

Awards are in the news this month. The War and Navy Departments have presented a special plague to those artists who have made extra efforts in contributing their time and talent to Armed Forces Radio Service shows emanating from Hollywood. Capitol stars signaled Stafford and Margaret Whiting.

Recipient of another award was Capitol's Paul Weston who was chosen by Radio Life magazine as the outstanding musical conductor (popular) of the

Heywood and his band will be on hand to take over the bandstand. he opened here last year at Billy Berg's

Nat takes his trio into the Orpheum appearances on the Kraft Music Hall show on NBC every Thursday night.



DESI ARNAZ, since his recent discharge from service, has made an amazingly fast step back into the big time. He opened with a new (and good) band at Ciro's and immediately all of Hollywood flocked to watch him work. He's an exciting performer: handsome, vivacious.

New Pressing Plants Boost Capitol Expansion

CONSOLIDATING sensational gains made during the past four years and paving the way for new far-reaching expansion in the entertainment industry, Capitol Records has announced purchase of two pressing plants with a reported combined capacity of 50,000,000 records annually.

Capitol acquired the Scranton (Penn.) Record Co. and the Scranton out for the honor include Jerry Collona, Distributing Corp., at an announced King Cole Trio, Stan Kenton, Johnny purchase price of \$2,000,000 for all Mercer, Pied Pipers, Andy Russell, Jo outstanding stock, and the huge dealconsummation of which electrified the entire entertainment world-gives Capitol direct control of the two big pressing plants, in Scranton and in Hollywood.

> The purchase was made to help meet Capitol's ever-growing need for increased production, facilities, a direct result of the continued rise of this firm's popularity with the public.

Capitol's Four Years Old

Founded in 1942, the astonishing ex-When Nat Cole's trio cuts out of pansion of the company, while phenomthe Trocadero on May 6, Eddie enally rapid, has been built upon solid ground with each succeeding step forward preceded by considerable study and careful preparation.

the unusual abilities of three of its diand broke it up, winning himself a big rectors stand out as the nucleus of the powerful organization. They are: Chairman of the Board of Directors B. G. theater for a week after closing the (Buddy) DeSylva, President Johnny Troc and then flies to NYC to start Mercer, and Vice President Clenn E. Wallichs, each contributing specialized talents to form a formidable business

> It is significant that Capitol artists have been consistently prominent among winners of Esquire, Down Beat, Metronome. Look and other national magazine awards. A glance over the results of any popularity poll, or listings of best selling records has shown Capitol artists among the leaders almost from the in-tively: ception of the company.

Galaxy of Stars

In Capitol's galaxy of recording stars are such names as Jo Stafford, King Cole Trio, the Pied Pipers, Margaret Whiting, Fibber McGee and Molly, Jerry Colonna, Peggy Lee, Stan Kenton, Paul Weston, Carlos Molina, Tex Ritter, Andy Russell, Wesley Tuttle, Dinning Sisters, Freddie Slack, Ella Mae Morse, Jack Guthrie, Alvino Rey, Cootie Williams, Bobby Sherwood and many others.

Originally engaged only in record manufacture, Capitol now makes and distributes phonograph needles, record albums, recording discs for home use, and will soon introduce a complete line of phonographs which will contain sci-



Capitol's Johnny Mercer

In analyzing Capitol's meteoric rise, Norman Granz lazz Tour On

Local hot impresario Norman Granz started off another series of jazz concerts here recently, bringing a company of jazz stars into the Embassy Auditorium for the initial date. Stars for the latest tour, which will cover key cities in the U.S. during the coming weeks, include Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Helen Humes, Meade Lux Lewis, Buck Clayton and many others.

Concert dates line up like this tenta-

May 1-Salt Lake City

May 2-Denver

May 4-Kansas City, Mo.

May 5-St. Louis

May 6-Detroit

Mellowreeni Pub. Co.

Slim Gaillard, Billy Berg's ninth wonder of the music world, is entering the publishing field with the edition of a "voutionary." The book, for which Slim is receiving fifty or more requests daily, professes to supply definitions for those words that the vout-specialist and his accomplices toss around while making mock of music nightly on Vine Street.

Cugat to Meadowbrook

Xavier Cugat (and what his publicity entific advancements in tonal reproduc- agent is now calling "Cuban Bebop") tion made by Capitol's Hollywood tech- open at the Meadowbrook here June 13. Ork will stay for four weeks.

hollywood beat

ALL the discussion on the Hollywood Beat this issue centers around the ture into Broadway musical comedy controversial performance of Stravinsky's "Ebony Concerto" by Woody field by songwriters Harold Arlen Herman's band during its recent Carnegie Hall concert. Anyone remotely and Johnny Mercer, has received concerned with the progress of jazz music feels that he has something excellent notices from NY scribs perched on a high stool in the

worth saving on the subject and will argue the "Concerto's" merits or demerits at the drop of a rest note. The sum-up, to this reporter, seems to be that, for most aware big band jazz fans, Woody's performance of the Stravinsky piece was interesting, sometimes confusing but not jazz. A noted recording director said: "If, as they say, Stravinsky has made a point of listening to 'Apple Honey' and 'Wildroot' and the other great Herman Herd numbers, it certainly doesn't show in the 'Ebony' piece. That could have been written by any talented European who'd never heard of jazz and it sounds as though it really might have been written for a legit symphonic group." Others felt that the entire spirit which underlines the best jazz was utterly missing in Stravinsky's piece, however much it might have to offer in its unorthodox harmonies and rhythms.

No replacement yet at the Hangover for Jim Simonin. Billy Early has been filling in and very beautifully with his excellent taste in tunes (for example, he's the only jazz pianist this department has ever heard play "Snowfall") and delicate style.

A couple of new spots have opened in town. One, out on the Strip, is called the Cotton Club with great originality and features Helen Humes currently. The other joint, with an equally inven- make a short at Universal and a couple tive name, The Tom-Tom, stars Wingy of soundies. Manone or did the last time we walked by its dim doors.

saying again anyway.

doing the Perry Como show, they'll tertaining.



ERROLL GARNER, there can be no disputing, is the musical king of Hollywood Boulevard at the moment - at least as far as musicians are concerned. Garner came out here a few months back after a phenomenal success on 52nd Street in NYC and has already made so strong an impression on west coast musicians that a tour of local night clubs will find more Garner-influenced than Tatum-influenced pianists. Erroll plays every night at the Susie Q, a night club that really books excellent jazz attractions.

Before Charlie Barnet and band left town for a date at the 400 in NYC. Did you ever hear that Art Tatum they cut a score for one of those "Jaswill move into Billy Berg's sometime in per" short subjects put out by George June? Well, he will if present plans ma- Pal. Peggy Lee vocalizes with Charlie terialize and may in turn be followed by on the sound track. Incidentally, an odd Louis Jordan, or that's what rumor is thing about those "Jasper" shorts is that some liberal thinking people think they're on the Jim Crow-ish side while While the Modernaires are in town others find them merely naive and en-

JUST RELEASED! LI'L AUGIE IS A NATURAL MAN. PLACE I HANG MY HAT IS HOME

Mercer-Arlen Play Jo Stafford Cuts Jazz Disc Date

abound in Hollywood about the possi. she wants. bilities of the show being rushed right into movie form, word from Mercer in The time was late in March. Jo had

Hamp's Book Sells



writes them and that's saying a lot. go for all of Paul Weston's music.

Gets B'way Okay "St. Louis Woman," first ven. Has 4 Hot Sides

By EVE STANLEY

and the show looks to be a long-running hit. An all-colored musical, "Woman control room of Capitol's Hollywood tells the vicissitudes of a pretty colored recording studios, lovely Jo Stafford gal back in the St. Louis of the 1890s was listening to a playback of one Stars include Pearl Bailey (whose per. of her first jazz records. Coffee cup formances of "Legalize My Name" and in one hand, soft flat boudoir slip"A Woman's Prerogative" break up the in one hand, soft she was the picshow every time), Ruby Hill, Rex In pers on her feet, she was the picgram, and the Nicholas Brothers among ture of ease — but concentration plus was evident as she checked her phras-Plans to record the score of the showing and tone. Although Jo is known in a Capitol album have already been for her placid, easy-going nature, she's completed and include an unusual deal a perfectionist about her work—which which will find Capitol's Pied Pinen is partly why her songs always sound moving over to Columbia for some plat just right. It takes hard work to achieve ter sides with Frank Sinatra while Per that effect of no effort being expended, Bailey cuts her "Woman" show tune and Jo is capable of spending hours of on Capitol's label. Though rumon grueling labor to achieve the results

Busy Schedule

NY indicates that film plans are still just flown out to Hollywood from New routine of long recording dates for Capitol, portrait photography sittings, business appointments sundry and ga-Lionel Hampton's "Swing Book" (now lore, interspersed with visits with the available on newsstands) is having sub California portion of her family. She widespread sale that he'll follow it w was flying back to New York to resume with two more books about popular her Chesterfield radio show schedule music: "The Cradle of Swing," a discussafter only one week's absence, which sion of New Orleans musicians, and left few spare moments for interviews. "River Route," telling how jazz moved We slipped in our questions when she northward and won international favor, took time out to catch her breath.

Because Jo belongs in the Gallery of Glamorous Gals, we quick-like demanded to know about her romances. Rumors of a wedding between her and Mike Nidorf, her manager, have flourished lately. Said Jo: "No, I'm not married and don't expect to be soon. I've been too busy to think about it. I've finally found a very nice apartment in New ork, on Central Park South, and my sister Christine is living there with me. She helps me in lots of ways, like taking care of my fan mail. I'm lucky to have her and the apartment — it's second best to being back in California her time. for keeps."

She Likes Variety

Since jazz vocals on the Capitol label BILLY BERG'S jumping joint on are a complete departure from prece-Vine Street seems to have a mo. dent for Jo, we asked her which she nopoly on the best talent in town likes to sing better, ballads or jazz. Her The latest addition to the impressive answer: "My motto is, gotta keep outa roster of talent at Berg's (which the ruts. I love variety in everything. now includes Harry "The Hipster" But seriously, I believe I'm better with Gibson, Slim Gaillard and Milton De ballads. My favorite song, Johnny Mer-Lugg's band) is Frankie Laine, above. Cer's 'You Grow Sweeter as the Years Frankie sings songs as well as he Co By, is a sample of what I mean. And



JO STAFFORD at the mike during her latest Capitol recording session.

especially his "Day by Day." Paul always writes music that's meat for singers, it's so easy to do."

We predict that when you hear lo's York. She was going through a hectic first jazz records, the main reason for this hurried Hollywood trip, you'll be delighted. Done up in Jo's own style, that batch of songs really jump. They prove her amazing versatility in one quick swoop. And Paul Weston, under of smart shoes numerous enough to whose direction Jo feels she does her stock a dozen wardrobes. best warbling, has provided arrangements both novel and inspiring.

> A natural for the movies is blue-eyed lo, with her red hair and peaches-andcream complexion. In fact, she made successful film tests recently for a major studio, but isn't in any hurry to accept the flattering offers already made to her. "It has to be a right picture first," said wise Jo. "I've seen too many of my pals rush to accept their first movie offer, and then suffer when the picture was wrong for them."

Plays Paramount Date

contract lasts until the end of 1946, and she has also promised to go into zine polls, G. I. votes and general public New York's Paramount Theater a little acclaim. For that matter, the way her later this year, she isn't exactly wasting Capitol records pile up sales from coast

For hobbies, Jo likes to watch basketball games, especially at Madison Square Garden, and she's movie mad. She'd see every movie that's shown, if possible, but would never miss Ingrid Bergman or Gregory Peck, her two favorites. "I don't often go to night clubs," said Jo. "I'm mainly interested when there's a new act to catch. I do like to watch the new Randy Brooks band at the Pennsylvania Hotel. Randy's trumpet is super. He'll go places because his outfit is jazz-solid."

Jo gets buckets of mail asking what her first name really is. She was actually christened Jo, but half her friends call her Josephine (Johnny Mercer started that), Jo-anne (that's the handle Paul Weston picked for her), or Josie, the name Frank Sinatra prefers for her. She's decided that if a name is short and easy to remember, everybody wants to improve on it; but since her friends can do no wrong, she answers cheerfully to any of the name variations.

Wins All the Polls

California-born Jo is model-height, standing seven inches over five feet. She dresses with excellent taste, loves black and white color combinations in tailored suits, but practically all styles and colors are becoming to her. When recording, she always wears soft slippers without heels-but she has a collection

Her generosity is evident in many ways. She is quick with praise of others, especially co-workers. She idolizes her family, is always dreaming up ways to please them. Last Christmas she bought her parents a new home, at Long Beach, California. "That made all my hard work worthwhile," said Jo. "It was such a joy to give my folks a house - and now I spend my spare time shopping for unusual things to furnish it with."

Yes, that Jo Stafford is a lovable, charming girl - and if anybody needs proof of her popularity he might check Since her present Chesterfield radio on the numerous recent awards that have been handed to her, through magato coast is a pretty fair indication, too.



Donahue Off To a Capitol Start Fudnote: Reconverted Mickey

released from the Navy at different

times, there was no chance of the boys

all joining Sam simultaneously and

getting his band properly together in

one piece presented something of a

problem. It was finally achieved, though,

crew with those members of his pre-

war band he was able to find still avail-

At the moment, Sam is waiting word

on which of two NY hotel spots he'll

open sometime this month. Both the

Commodore and the Pennsylvania want

him. His fast signature to a Capitol

recording contract is another good indi-

cation of how well the informed music

world knows Donahue's capabilities and

will be available in the very near future.

are Mynell Allen, lovely songstress from

Dallas, Texas, and Bill Bassford, recently

discharged Navy combat veteran, both

of whom are making their debuts with

Starring in Sam's vocal department

NYC

Tenorman to Wax For H'wood Firm

HIS friends call him "Sambo," he's undoubtedly one of the best-liked guys in the music business, and he now records on the Capitol label. I met him shortly before he enlisted in the United States Navy back in 1942. His band was just then reaching out for a tantalizing success that came so near ... but not quite near enough.

"Sam Donahue and his Orchestra" is what it used to say on the billboards and the throw-away cards and on the menus at Glen Island Casino back in New York. And this was at a time when Glen Island Casino was the only placethe only LOGICAL place - for an upand-coming bandleader to be. That's where Sam was . . . fronting the most frantic, yet well-organized jazz band of a gob. For one thing he wanted to have young kids that you've ever heard in as many of his sailor-sidemen in his your life. Everybody liked the band. Not civilian group as possible and it's suronly the hipsters (who were called hep- prising how many he succeeded in keepcats then) but the squares and even the ing. Because the band members were



Sam Donahue

older folks because the Donahue ork had an infectious drive to it that was positively irresistible

Back on the Band Stand

Now Sam is back in business again. He spent a long stretch in the Navy ... not all of it especially happy. When Artie Shaw returned with the Rangers band from the S. Pacific and received a discharge, it was Donahue who took over the band reins and embarked with it on a tour of European waters that took the musicians away from home again for many long months. Three years of Navy discipline finally came to end and, in February of this year, Donahue started realizing the plans he'd kept in the back of his head while still



THIS is the powerful brass section that will help make Sam Donahue's new Capitol-recording band a smash success - and in short order.

lo's lazz Date Has Nat Cole problem. It was finally achieved, though, and, combining the best of his Navy And Ace Jazzmen

The Capitol center-spread this able, Sam started rehearsals back in issue illustrates a few aspects of public wanted. the picture lay-out was a particularly happy one. It marked lo Stafford's dent-making for its combination of stars (Jo, Nat Cole, Paul Weston, Ray Lim, Herbie Haymer); and it produced some of a little baby sawhorse, of all things, potentialities. The band's first records great music.

> music later this month. When you do horse, if you know what we mean. Anyperfect finesse with which each solois identifies him throughout the tone moves in to take over his notes, the poem, in case you aren't paying attengeneral warmth and good humor that tion; it goes dah-dah-dih-dat-dih-dahpermeate the platters, especially and so on. bouncy side called "Cindy."

- STACY



Reformed lcky Now a lazz Fan

By GEORGE H. PLAGENS*

FARNING of Gronsonby "Valve" Fudnote's new interest in Jazz comes as a nasty shock. Not, you understand, that Valve's earlier hand, the one which made him stinking rich, was an icky outfit or

On the contrary, it was a peachy band, if you liked that kind of music. the kind Fudnote's fans liked and paid good dough for. And if you think that ingling sound isn't music you're nowhere lack. . . . Where were we? Ah. ves. The old Fudnote band was extremewell rehearsed and shaved regularly. They kept their instruments shiny at all times and blew them out at least twice a week. Valve's sidemen were decent chaps, didn't drink or run around much and were kind to their mothers. What more can one ask of a musician -music? You're just sore because you never made the kind of loot Valve did.

Gronsonby's Return

But essentially the old Fudnote band was not a jazz type band. It was more of a, well, you know what we mean. The new Fudnote is going to play a new kind of "advanced modern" music! How refreshing! He could have played it long ago, but he preferred to play what the

what goes on at a recording session. Today's Fudnote band members point As it happened, the date chosen for with pride to their current version of composer - arranger - conductor - motorman - explorer Fudnote's tone - poem, "Konzertmusik fur eine Volswagen mit first jazz date for Capitol; it was prece shwefeldampf" or "Serenade to a Saw-

The "Sawhorse" music tells the story who is a sort of special sawhorse be-You'll be able to buy some of that cause he is really more of a sawDUST listen for the relaxed jazz beat, the way, he has a musical theme which

Two More Bars, Beer-tender!

We had an opportunity to talk about this with Fudnote the other day when he passed through town on his way to a short five week rest in Caliente. He was a pretty beat boy. He was tired. He and his marvelous band had been rehearsing like anything in preparation for their vacations. If you'd been there and kept your big mouth shut, you might have heard:

We (or Us): "What are your basic plans for your little group, Valve, ...



beyond making it even more successful than ever, of course, ha-ha?"

Him (or Fudnote): "Ah ha-ha-ha. We want to play 'good' music essentially. I say 'good' in quotes because I mean a particular kind of 'good.' The boys want to blow their horns. We'd trumpets and substituting violas for like to cut Ken Stanton or Hermie softness. Then I'm going to fire my Woodwind or even Martie Freddin, that brother-in-law and do the singing myhot character. Or maybe I should say self. Two fine flautists are coming from we'd like to play the best music pos- the Azusa Symphonette Society to play sible for the best people with the best for me .It will be lovely. Of course we money. I am not biased in such matters. will play hot Jazz at every opportunity." I think one man's money is as good as

Fudnote's Folly

Us: "Don't you think-?"

play corny stuff. We will be booked and play the organ on one side with into ballrooms, theatres, hotels and some real hot Jazz by the bass player super markets where people come to for several bars. On the other side is my hear good contemporary type American new composition, "It's Only Humid." music, comic opera, dance, jazz, rounds, This is pretty jivey for my great oror whatever you want to call it. I want chestra. It is a fast waltz featuring lots to call it 'modern' and that's what I'm of zingy viola passages and the all-boy gonna call it and you can do as you choir I specially hired for the occasion please. It's my band and I'm the guy from the Lushville School for Squares.

note, we didn't mean-"

Fudnote (taking another drag): "Lately I have noticed an increasing * Regular readers of The Capitol will interest in 'good' music by just about recognize the above article as a parody everybody I meet."

We (to ourselves): "It is remarkable the April issue of The Capitol.-Ed.

that Mr. Fudnote should say this. No other band leader has noted this amazing trend except the last five or ten we have interviewed in the past year. Fudnote's perception in this matter is nothing less than."

Valve: "Oh, we'll add some theatrical touches such as the public has come to expect from great entertainers like myself. We'll wear really comical hats made of real felt and rimmed with real feathers and the prettiest tangerine bolero jackets, all alike except mine which will have neon trimming or something simple like that to distinguish me from the ordinary musicians in the band. I've been practicing on the pipe organ in my modest rancho where I can just plug in my electric Wurlitzer anytime. It's all in fun of course. I'll only play a pipe-organ concerto or two before the dancing starts. The masses demand that sort of thing you know."

We: "Do we?"

Act 2, Scene 2

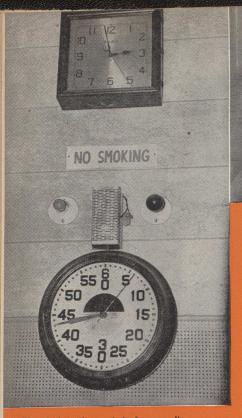
Him: "Before you forget to ask me, want to tell about some changes in the band: I'm getting rid of those awful

We: "You have some records out with your new band, don't you, Valve?"

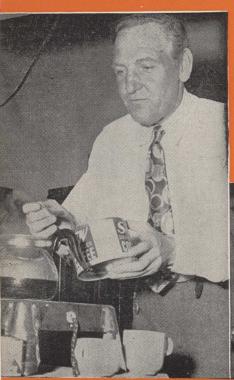
Him: "How did you ever guess? You've been peeking! Yes, it's what Him: "No. I don't think we'll have to you might call a novelty record. I sing It's rather modern for the man in the Us (In alarm): "Now, now, Mr. Fud- street but it will sell like hotcakes anyways!"

on a bandleader-interview printed in





The clock is the symbol of a recording date — and as important as the stars.



Studio jack - of - all - trades is Jack Turner, who keeps coffee boiling during disc dates.



Outside, the band throws notes at microphones. Inside the control room, volume, tone, balance are carefully checked,



Capitol recording director Jim Conkling, left, has flashed "You're on" and a recording is under way.



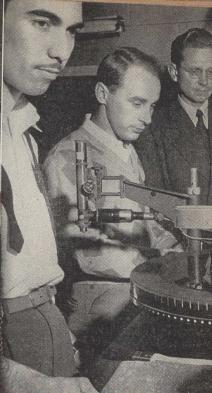
A JAZZ DISC DIE AT CAPITOL



"Take five!" is a welcome phrase to musician ears. It means recess — a chance for a smoke and clatter between takes.



Most crucial moment of any platter session is listening to play-backs of "takes." Note concerned expressions.



Expert technicians, including Capitol's Bill Miller, right, watch the cutters.



Jazz fan Peggy Lee is first in line for Jo Stafford's new platter.

The Life Story of Merle Travis Survey of English Swing Music

New Capitol Star Tells Background

By MERLE TRAVIS

Well, sir, I don't know 'till this day just why, but I was born one mornin' just before sun-up in a ol' house the folks up aroun' Rosewood, Kentucky, call the "Ol" Frack Place."

This happened on the mornin' of November 29th, 1917.

There was four of us younguns. Taylor, my oldest brother, and Vada, my only sister; John, the brother next to me, and I'm the "Baby," as mom said.

Rosewood is in Muhlenburg County, 'bout five miles out from Greenville, that's the county seat ...

They raised lots of tobaccer up in that end of the county and that's what dad did for a livin' till I was about five years old. Then he went down around Browder and Drakesboro and got a job in the mines. Dad afterwards said, "I wished I'd a stayed on the farm and never seen a dad-gum coal mine."

We lived on a road between Browder and Beech Creek. It was a great big old house called the "Ol' Littlepage Place." Some people by that name had willed the place to their slaves, and died off, so you see our landlord was an ol' sounded. colored man.

His name was Uncle Rufus Littlepage and he and his wife. Aunt Roena, lived in a little ol' shack down under the hill. When he's come to collect the rent, he'd go around to the back door and knock. Mom would open the door, ol' Uncle Rufe would take off his hat, grin, an' bow down and say, "Good mawnin' Missus, could I please hav' d' rent?" Some of you city folks compare him with your landlord.

When I was about six years old, my Uncle Johnny Travis' boy traded for an ol' five string banier. I got a look at the instrument and right away decided that I must have me a banjer. I got me a got about the banjer. carbide can, cut the bottom off, and took an oi' board for a neck, unravelled taught me to make up the chords to



MERLE TRAVIS is a new artist on the Capitol label. He wears a cowboy hat but he's more than just another routine cowboy singer because he has a folk music quality that the average hillbilly or wide-open-spacer doesn't have. Travis' first release coincides with this issue of The Capitol. Take a listen to his version of his own tune, "No Vacancy" and see what you think.

you should have seen the beautiful thing I created. I won't mention how it us up and I stayed at Station WLW in dimbed to fame on the Hit Parade. Ted

My dad was a purty good banjer picker. He showed me how to pick a little ol' easy tune called "Hot Corn." . . Dad could play the fire out of those old ones like "Jenny Weaver" and "Goin' 'Crost the Sea."

An old colored feller named Les Sutton, who used to come up to buy buttermilk from us, taught me too.

Finally, my brother Taylor made a guitar out of plywood and when he went to Evansville, Indiana, he left the old box at home. Later he wrote and told mom I could have the guitar. Then I sorta took up guitar pickin' and for-

Fuzzy Gregory, a friend of mine,

"Birmingham Jail," then I learned a few holts myself and then I got to where I could second purty well when brother John would pick the banjer. But I really owe all the guitar playin' I do to two boys who lived in Drakesboro, Ky., and earned their livin' the hard way in the coal mines. They were Mose Rager and Ike Everly.

I got to where I was playin' for square dances and baseball games, parties and everywhere else there was any gatherings. In them days, and in lots of places these days, coal miners don't have money. But I got lots of experi-

Once I visited my brother, Taylor, at Evansville and we went to a Walk-ashow, one of them contests to see who could stay awake and dance the longest today three orks, which, it is no exag-They was broadcastin' there and I got geration to say, equal any one of your out my thumb pick and played "Tiger top bands, except for Duke and Woody, Rag." A hillbilly band boss on a radio who are both years ahead of their time. station heard me and I got hired.

I played with this bunch, "The Knox County Knockabouts." We'd clear a dollar or two when we played. Later I Went with the "Tennessee Tomcats" and the "Drifting Pioneers." When dler contests all over the country.

the screen doors to get my strings, and "Drifting Pioneers" and we were to readers for his hit song, "I'm Gonna gether four years. Then the war broke

When I got to Los Angeles I knew falt on piano.

Bennett, Tex Atchison, Larry Cassidy and especially Cliffie Stone.

I've had good luck, appearin' on network shows out here and bein' in pictures, co-starrin' in one with Carolina

I don't know yet just how the public will take my little recordin' efforts, but I've got my fingers crossed and I'm gonna give 'er all I got. Mom usta say, "Always do your best. That's all a mul can do." I reckon' she was right.

By JOHN C. GEE

This article describing current swing hand activities in England was written expressly for Capitol readers by an Engish swing enthusiast who is well-known both here and abroad as a lecturer and writer on hot music.

WHEN Major Glenn Miller's AEF Orchestra and Sam Donahue's Naval Crew were in this country, our dance band musicians learned a lot from the boys of these two great bands. Since their return home. however, something startling has happened to the English jazz scene - for believe it or not we have in this country These three bands are composed of some of our finest jazz stars, and I think that many American jazz fans would be more than interested to know

Most Popular Band

was with the "Georgia Wildcats" for a The rage of the country, at the mofew months we played a series of fid. ment, and my bet for top honors in this Stenfalt. year's polls is Ted Heath's band. Ted I later joined up again with the will, I expect, be familiar to American Love That Guy," which I understand has Cincinatti broadcastin' two years as a also happens to be a fine trombonist. and the four trombones of his ork form I joined the Marine Corps in '43, was the most perfect section I have ever discharged from Parris Island in '44, heard in any band, American or English. and went back to WLW. All the fellers It consists of Lad Busby, Harry Roche, and girls I'd worked with were gone. Jack Bentley, and Jimmy Coombes. The Then one day Smiley Burnett came hythm section is very fortunate in along and he said, "Why I'd rather be having on skins the amazing Jack Parthe poorest man in California than to nell, who could carve your Buddy Rich next day I was off to the Pacific Coast. Coldberg on guitar, and Norman Sten-

HAILED AS TODAY'S LOUIS ARMSTRONG, trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie goes

over his notes for the benefit of bandleader Johnny Richards, another musician whose keen interest in advanced music forms is winning him the respect and admiration of jazzmen everywhere. English jazz fans (whose tastes are described in the adjoining columns) should soon be hearing plenty about the merits of U.S. jazzmen like Gillespie and Richards.

The saxophone section is incredibly powerful, as can be witnessed on the fine trumpet stylist, Tommy McQuater band's magnificent Decca recording of by name, and an equally fine drummer, "Twilight Time," and boasts three first Jock Cummings. In the reeds is a newrate soloists-Leslie Gilbert on alto sax, comer who has rapidly climbed to fame Reg Owen on clarinet and alto sax, and -Cliff Townsend, on baritone sax. Johnny 'Handlebars' Gray on tenor.

The band as a whole is not properly settled as quite a few of the men are still in the Forces awaiting demob, but when the personnel is finally stabil-

Ex-Service Group Clicks

The second orchestra I wish to bring be the richest man in Cincinnati." The any time, Charlie Short on bass, Dave to your attention is the Squadronaires, who were until quite recently the No. 1 Dance Orchestra of the Royal Air Force. two people. Wesley Tuttle and Charley This last-named is the backroom boy When they were demobbed the boys Linville. Linville didn't have a phone so of the band. He was with the Heath decided to stay together as a co-operacalled Wes. He come down town and Cang a few months back when it was tive unit and every jazz fan was overtook me to his home in North Holly- first formed, left to continue with other joyed at this decision because for the wood and treated me like a long lost activities, and now once again is back past two years this group has been at the piano stool. He supplies many of repeatedly voted our top band. Included racing neck and neck with Kenny Baker That's how I been treated by a lot of the band's terrific arrangements, and in its personnel is one of the all-time of Ted Heath's ork for this year's trumpeople out here since. Like Tex Ritter, was responsible for that 'powerhouse' greats of the slip horn — George Chis- pet crown; Wally Stott — our retort to Ray Whitley, Charley Linville, Bobby arrangement of Ellington's "Ring Dem holm, who makes most of the Squads'

wmething about these English jazzmen. Bells." His piano playing is indescribable modernistic arrangements as well as bein its sheer beauty of design and ar- ing a first class funny man and, I hear, tistry. Remember the name - Norman playing some swell piano. A versatile fellow, this one!

Besides Chisholm, there is a really

Finally, Geraldo and his Orchestra. who helped to keep up public morale right through the war from the 1940 blitz days to the present time, and is still going strong. This band is fortunate in possessing a leader with a profound knowledge of all types of music, and who is himself an accomplished musician, having studied at the Trinity School of Music. Many of the band's former stars-Harry Hayes, Ted Heath, Leslie 'Jiver' Hutchinson, George Evans, etc., left to form their own bands and as a result Ceraldo was forced to discover fresh talent. He has an outstanding 19year-old trumpeter Freddy Clayton, George Handy-and incidentally a stylish alto player: Duggie Robinson with his 'Willie Smithish' alto; Jock Bain, a trombonist with a rich, fruity tone who is at his best in small jam groups. In the rhythm section is our greatest swing guitarist, Ivor Mairants, and another 'smashing' drum man, Maurice Burman.

Most of these names will-to most of you-remain just names but the more enterprising ones among you, I hope, will endeavor to obtain a few waxings by these bands-I can assure you that you won't regret it.







Sinatra Builds Sports Palace

Frank Sinatra has started a \$1 .-000,000 project, Hollywood Square Garden, planned to be the west coast's largest sports arena. Crooner signed incorporation papers late in March, will order construction started in Hollywood as soon as materials can be obtained. The whole gamut of major sports events will be held there, patterned after New York's Madison Square Garden policy.

Mickey Rooney Will Front Ork

Mickey Rooney, MGM film star, will soon organize his own band. modeled after an outfit he headed overseas when entertaining other G.I.'s. He's chosen the clarinet out of all the instruments he's played for years, is taking lessons in earnest, and expects to present himself as clarinetplaying leader with his new outfit on tour, as soon as present picture commitments are completed.

GREAT NEWS was the announcement that Capitol Transcriptions has penned Duke Ellington to a wax contract. Once signed, it didn't take the contract long to start working. The Duke, shown above with his faithful disciple and assistant arranger. Billy Strayhorn, has already a batch of Ellingtonia for the C. transcription label. It'll be ready for radio use in July.

Spike to S. America

Spike Jones' City Slickers, now at the Trocadero here and creating a sensation with their alternately zany and very good music, definitely leave on a South event. American tour sometime this summer.

Correction:

An article describing the "bebop" controversy in the last issue of The Capitol contained statements which Ted Steele, musical director for Hollywood radio station KMPC, has asked to be corrected. Says Mr. Steele: "I have never been a member of musicians' local 392 in Las Vegas, Nevada, much less a delinquent member, nor has it ever been necessary for me to be 're-instated' in the American Federation of Musicians." Capitol extends apologies.

movie MUSIC

ONE of today's most discussed theories, the recently accredited scientific discovery of healing by music, will be the theme in ar ambitious musical film planned by MGM. Tentatively titled "Triumph of Music," it will also deal with the dra matic historical friendship between composer Wolfgang Mozart and Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer, set in the late 18th century.

Scoring is completed on the lesse L Lasky presentation, "Without Reservations," starring Claudette Colbert and John Wayne, an RKO Radio release. Music by Roy Webb nas Constantin Bakaleinikoff conducting a 41 - piece orchestra.

In Shirley Temple's RKO Radio starring picture, "Honeymoon," she sing Expects to Top on the screen for the first time since she grew up. The two numbers warbled by Shirley are "I Love Geraniums" and Chopin Movie "Ven Aqui," written for her by Mort Greene and Leigh Harline.

pare her adult singing with her remem- popularity through the forthcoming bered "Baby Take a Bow," a 1934

film scores does pop tunesmith Jimmy McHugh turn out anyway?

Platter Spinner

BILL LEYDEN presides over KMPC's 10:00 "to high vout," he says, with



ing equipment in the other. Ad took over De- music." troit air and be-

came a special Hoagy and His Boys flying bombers in the Air Force inter- Hoagy Carmichael and his two young rupted his career but, says Leyden, gave sons, Hoagy Bix and Hoagy Bob, will be him even more to talk about. Bill like seen together on the screen for the first Hungarian pianists, jazz, anything fine in a Columbia Screen Snapshot



MEET RAY ANTHONY, a young fellow you're going to know better before very long. Ray is the leader of a new, young band that has been stirring up plenty of excitement in the mid-west. It's a sharp crew, says everyone, and ready to go places.

Universal Flicker

The music of Rimsky-Korsakov Her fans will have a chance to com- is expected to attain even wider picture "Fandango" than did Chopin's scores in the recent smash Random movie thought: how many film success, "Song to Remember."

The film "Fandango" relates a weekfeaturing such Rimsky-Korsakov compositions as "Song of India," "Hymn to "Music Hall" (from Hollywood) from he Sun," "Fandango, and Trie Gypsy "Music Hall" (from Hollywood) from Song," Miklos Rozsa, Academy Award the Sun," "Fandango," and "The Gypsy winner this year for his "Spellbound" candy bar in one hand and shave. Store, has arranged the numbers and the songs have been furnished with words by Jack Brooks.

everything, Bill Sinatra Shooting

makes commer- Production has started over at the cials into gags. MCM lot on the next Frank Sinatra Back in Chica- flicker, It'll be called "It Happened in go, he ran the Brooklyn" and co-stars Kathryn Gray-"Make Believe son. Studio is describing this one as Ballroom," then "not strictly a musical but a story with

called "Famous Fathers and Sons."

radio riffs

IT'S good having Dave Rose and his orchestra back on the air . . . and it's another good band he's got too. Somehow, Rose remains one of the few young conductor-arrangercomposer talents who can walk the tight-rope of commercialism without sacrificing good taste. His scorings are usually flawless, rich in ideas and always well-performed. Strange that he doesn't bring one of his radio crews around the country on a concert tour. He'd do real music a lot of good if he'd make the experiment

Johnny Desmond will leave the Teen-Timers show because the Philip Morris people want him to sing exclusively for their program. Johnny Conte (used to sing and emcee the Maxwell House show) will replace Desmond. And Desmond, in case you're interested, is With MGM Deal already talking a picture deal with Warner Brothers.

The Dinning Sisters left the west coast recently to return to Chicago to appear on a few NBC Barn Dance shows. They'll probably play some theatre engagements while in the mid-west too. Kids will return here in June.

Remember those Harry Zimmerman-Ing episode in the life of the Russian KHJ "Adventure in Music" shows that composer and will include sequences this column is always talking about? The theme from the show, written by Zimmerman, has been published as "Prelude to Love" and it sure is pretty.

Crosby at Meadowbrook

Bob Crosby and his band followed Gene Krupa into the Meadowbrook here. Band policy at the spot now finds main Tuesday and Wednesday eves.



AND THIS is Dee Keating (do you remember her from Al Donahue's band?) who sings with Ray Anthony and is, if we know anything at all about it, an extremely good-looking girl. If she can sing like she looks.

Tony Martin Set

Still another swoon singer, Tony Martin, has been inked to a picture deal by MGM. Recently singing at Chez Paree in Chicago, after getting out of Navy uniform a few months ago, Martin is expected in Hollywood shortly and will start work at once on a new flicker.

The singer, whose career was interrupted at its height with the outbreak of war and his subsequent enlistment in service, has made a fast civilian comeback on the strength of his part in MGM's forthcoming "Till the Clouds Roll By," film based in part on the life of Jerome Kern.

Durbin Does Musical

Deanna Durbin will star in the screen attraction (like Crosby) playing every version of "Up in Central Park," show Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday which has been wowing B'way for past nights, while a relief ork takes over on two years. Universal will produce it in





hand stands

FREDDY MARTIN: Ambassador LAWRENCE WELK: Aragon Ballroom BOBBY SHERWOOD: Avodon Ballroom IAN GARBER: Avodon Ballroom CEELLE BURKE: Bal Tabarin MILTON DeLUGG: Billy Berg's HARRY GIBSON: Billy Berg's SLIM CAILLARD: Billy Berg's **IIMMY GRIER: Biltmore Hotel RUSS MORGAN: Biltmore Hotel**

Opening May 23 SONNY DUNHAM: Casino Gardens CARMEN CAVALLARO: Ciro's **IOHNNY OTIS: Club Alabam** NAPPY LAMARE: Gay Inn IOE TURNER: loe Turner's Blue Room BOB CROSBY: Meadowbrook DEAN BENEDITTI, Morocco Club EMIL COLEMAN: Mocambo SAMMY KAYE: Palladium FREDDIE FISHER: Radio Room MIKE RILEY: Mike Riley's Madhouse **RED CALLENDAR: Rite Spot** TEXAS JIM LEWIS: Riverside Rancho MATTY MALNECK: Slapsie Maxie's ERROLL GARNER: Susie Q VIVIEN GARRY TRIO: Susie Q RAY BAUDUC: Susie Q CEE-PEE JOHNSON: Swing Club BENNY CARTER: Trianon PEE WEE HUNT: Victory Inn

Lena Gets Rich Role

Lena Horne may get a chance to Loos to write a good role for the actress which starts shooting soon.

Fowler's Star Role

Capitol folk artist Wally Fowler is now featured on station KSM's "Grand Ol' Opry" show from Nashville. Program is heard here every Saturday night at 7:30 (PST) over NBC.

New Ork at Morocco

after a lengthy stay, have been replaced at the Morocco Club on Vine St. here by "be-bop" kick.



I. Lunceford **Heading West**

Jimmy Lunceford's big band aggregation head east early this month, opening the L.A. Orpheum Theater on May 21 and following up with possible dates at the Meadowbrook, or Trianon, or Plantation Club. break away from stereotyped "special- Lunceford plans to spend most of the ty" parts in her MCM films shortly, summer on the west coast and is lining Arthur Freed has asked scenarist Anita up a picture deal with Warner Brothers.

Keeping up with today's fast pace, into the screen adaptation of the Lunt- the Lunceford ork is flying west from Fontanne stage success, "The Pirate," NYC and the bandleader has already made application for the purchase of an Army C-47 transport for his own use and for flying his band around on dates.

H. James Band On 20th-Fox Lot

Harry James and his ork are cur-Red Nichols and his Five Pennies, rently finishing up scenes for their new 20th Century-Fox flicker 'That's For Me." Following the pic date, Dean Beneditti's six-piece crew. New the Horn was expected to leave for a group is described as on a modern or six-week eastern stay, playing a possible Hotel Astor booking in NYC.



MARGARET O'BRIEN fans will want this new photo of the young MGM star for their scrapbooks, It's the very newest picture of the screen moppet, who has already released one album of children's stories exclusively on the Capitol label and who will have another one out in the record shops in the near future.

Fitzgerald Chirps

Barry Fitzgerald will sing on th the screen for the first time in Para mount's forthcoming "Two Years Before the Mast." He plays a sea dog and w sing a chanty while playing concerti

Platter Spinner

BARRY GRAY, who turns over th platters on WOR-Mutual in NYC, ha one of the most unusual record show

on the air. one thing program is nig ly critical at humorous. tures top gue from the ente tainment work and Gray review shows, ban openings and t like. He al writes a rec review colum weekly for "V

riety," the trade journal, and at moment is finishing up a book title tentatively "So You Wanta Be Radio," set for September release. Gra is from Los Angeles originally and ma return here soon for an MGM film.



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Arrangers on Air Show



EACH OF THE FOUR men shown in this photo is working hard at music in Hollywood. Left to right, Paul Weston, musical conductor and superb arranger at Capitol Records, whose smooth full band voicings are a by-word among hip musicians; Skitch Henderson, a new Capitol arranger-pianist. who debuted recently with Weston on

wax and whose own band records are ready now; Axel an Stordahl, the man responsible for Frank Sinatra's thrilling wh music backgrounds; and Gene Norman, station KFWB coa platter-spinner, who brought all these arrangers together des on one of his shows recently for a free-for-all on how a thin - Ray Whitten Photo. score should be written.